

Committee Notes – Joint Meeting

Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID

June 11, 2015

Salvation Army The Way In

Attendance: **HED Committee Members present:** John Tronson, Carol Massie, Frank Babitch, Chad Lewis. Not present: Monica Yamada, Derrick Malec. **SVBID Committee Members present:** Fred Rosenthal, Fabio Conti. Not present: Elizabeth McDonald, Anthony Bell. **Liaisons:** Joe Salazar, Bill Farrar, Steve Seyler, Andrews International. Officer Cesar Corona, LAPD. **Staff:** Kerry Morrison, Joseph Mariani. **Guests:** Karen Weiner, The Salvation Army, Mike Arminio, LA Film School.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Fred Rosenthal at 10:10 a.m.
- II. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
- III. Meeting Notes: The committee reviewed the meeting notes from their May 14, 2015 meeting.
- IV. New Business

A. Sidewalk vending ordinance: Kerry Morrison reported on a series of four hearings underway by the city, seeking input on a proposed sidewalk vending ordinance. The second one is that evening, and John Tronson will be accompanying her to the hearing. BID stakeholders and/or small businesses are encouraged to attend and speak out.

B. Homeless survey: Morrison shared the results of a simple survey conducted by the BID Patrol during the month of May. Individuals who were new faces in the BID were asked three questions: (1) where were you a year ago? (2) why did you come to Hollywood, and (3) what are your needs. It was interesting to note that of the 36 people who agreed to be interviewed, 55 percent were in another state a year ago. Eleven were in housing a year ago, and three had jobs. More research has to be done to cross-tab the data, but it led to a discussion re/ the need to resurrect a service such as Travelers' Aid to help people return home if they are stranded here.

There was also a general discussion regarding the increasing incidents involving homeless individuals inciting some type of violence. The committee discussed a number of causes, including unintended consequences of Prop 47 and increased drug use, due to the decriminalization of drug possession and use on the public right of way. It was pointed out that crystal meth use can lead to paranoia and violent behavior. The committee suggested that staff collate these examples and the data and set up meetings with state elected officials to inform them how things have changed in Hollywood in the past year or so.

C. Campaign to discourage panhandling: Morrison said she is trying to identify an artist who can illustrate the website that is associated with the campaign to discourage panhandling and protect people from aggressive CD vendors and characters. She hopes to have that completed by next month.

D. Bronson/Sunset intersection: After the Sunset & Vine streetscape committee walk through in April, the area behind the Sunset Blvd Denny's near the 101 exit from the freeway (to Sunset Blvd) was identified as a key area to tackle due to homeless encampments and trash accumulation. Staff is attempting to connect with ATT who has a structure there that allows homeless individuals to hide. This will be a priority until the situation is resolved.

E. Staples: Morrison mentioned that encampments are popping up alongside the Staples property on Sunset Blvd again. This situation had been ameliorated a few years ago by the installation of bright lights. Sunset board member Brian Folb is attempting to reach out to corporate Staples.

F. Las Palmas camera: Joe Mariani mentioned that discussions continue with the city – Bureau of Street Lighting and DOT – to seek permission to install the new video surveillance camera on the pole at the SW corner of Las Palmas and Hollywood. At issue is a power source. Captain Zarcone is also reaching out, to see if a dedicated power source can be installed to support the camera.

V. PARTNER REPORTS

A. Andrews International: Steve Seyler shared the highlights of his report for the period May 4 through May 31, 2015. The report was distributed. He mentioned that the new dispatcher had been hired; Angelica. It was giving him and Joe Salazar an opportunity to spend more time in the field. Overall, arrests are down but calls for service and homeless referrals are up. One notable arrest involved the “tree vandal,” who arrested by LAPD on June 2. More than 55 newly planted jacaranda trees have been snapped and vandalized in the last 18 months on Vine Street in the Sunset BID, and in two instances, video footage captured a particular suspect. He had an outstanding warrant because he missed a court date. According to the city attorney’s office, he pled guilty to vandalizing one tree and was fined and given a two-year stay away order.

B. Report from LAPD: Officer Corona reported on a task force that resulted in the arrest of two CD vendors near Hollywood and Highland. For both, there are now stay away orders in effect. He also reported on an upcoming anti police protest expected at Hollywood and Highland, “FTP.”

There were no representatives on hand from LA County Sheriff, Neighborhood Prosecutor or City Council office.

VI. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2015.

VII. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.